(c) whether Government have set up a fast channel for clearing foreign investment proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) The selection of technologies is primarily left to the Indian entrepreneurs/parties, who after exploring the alternative sources of technology and techno-economic analysis select the one that suits them best. Thereafter, they apply for Government's approval and such applications with tie-ups with West German and Japanese firms are examined on merits in consultation with the authorities concerned. Some proposals with tie-ups with West German and Japanese firms are at various stages of consideration.

(c) It is the constant endeavour of the Government to give speedy clearance to the proposals.

Manufacturing of scooters and motorcycles of different brands

3611. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of scooters and motorcycles of different brands manufactured in the country during the years 1965-66, 1986-87 and 1987-88;

(b) what are the comparative prices of different brands of scooters and motorcycles during the last three years; and

(c) what is the number of scooters and motorcycles of different brands exported during the last year and to which countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Soviet assistance for Neyveli lignite Power Station

3612. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the report based on Soviet technical and financial assistance for the Neyveli Lignite Power Station has been prepared;

(b) if so, whether this will be the third power station in the NLC complex;

(c) whether the report was finalised only after Soviet Government't offer to help India to set up 500 MW lignite super agricultural boilers; and

(d) if so, whether the Soviet Union has agreed to extend credit to cover the entire cost of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL (IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI C. K. JAFFAR SHARIEF): (a) to (d) An agreement has been reached in principle on possible cooperation between India and USSR on the setting up of a Fuel Energy Complex at Neyveli in Tamil Nadu. This complex will consist of a lignite mine of 11 million tonnes annual production capacity and a linked power station with an installed generation capacity of 3x500 MW.

Technical discussions are being held with Soviet Experts on these two projects. Credit assistance from Soviet Union as may be agreed upon, is expected to be available.

Establishment of power project by private sector

3613. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the response of the private sector for establishment of power projects;

(b) what is the current shortfall in power supply projected demand and supply shortfall during the next plan period;

(c) what are the reasons for which the electricity rates in India are very high as compared to the developing and developed countries; and

(d) what is the plant load factor and transmission loss in public sector and private sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) and (b) A capacity of about 2132 MW is presently installed in the private sector power utilities. As against an energy requirement of 17525 million units in the country during July, 1988 the availability was 15933 million units. The Central Electricity Authority have assessed an energy requirement of 384764 million units in the terminal year of the Eighth Plan, 1994-95.

(c) and (d) Power tariffs are governed by factors, such as cost of inputs, financial structure and socio-economic policies and considerations. During 1987-88, the private sector power utilities registered a plant load factor of 67.6 per cent in relation to the national average of 56.4 per cent for thermal units. The estimated transmission and distribution losses (All India average) were about 19.82 per cent during 1987-88.

Fraudulent transaction by express groups

3614. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Accounts Depatrment in his Ministry had brought to light the fraudulent transactions and had reported that Shri Ramnath Goenka raised a total of Rs. 23 crore during 1966-71 for his share market speculation and that there were straight borrowings from the public financial institutions including banks and also from the public by way of deposits which were not assured either against the shares of the company, its assets or its debentures, and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and what steps have been taken by Government to stop such repeat diversion of public funds for speculative purposes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) An inspection of the books of accounts of M|s. Indian Express Newspapers (Bombay) Private Ltd. was carried out under Section 209 (4) of the Companies Act 1956, during the year 1972-73. An interim inspection report dated 4.11.1972 and final report dated 12.2.1973 were received. It is seen that during the year 1969-70, 4 comapnies of Indian Express Group had with them a sum of Rs. 2307.17 lakhs consisting of Rs. 845.62 lakhs as secured loans, Rs. 732.62 lakhs as unsecured loans and Rs. 728.93 lakhs by way of Public Deposits.

The Company Law Board by an Order dated 4.12.1972 under Section 408 of the Companies Act appointed two Government directors on the Board of Indian Express Newspapers (Bombay) Private Ltd. for a period of two years. The main grounds on which the said order was issued included, amongst others, (a) the said company had incurred huge losses on purchase and sale of IISCO and other shares; (b) the estimated wiping out of the capital of the Company; (c) the continuous losses of the company since the year ended 30.4.1969; and (d) the company was not in a position to refund the monies collected from the members of the public by way of deposits.

Refinery Status to reliance Industry Patalganga

3615. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Reliance Industries has been accorded a refinery status for their PTA plant at Patalganga in Maharashtra and if so; what are the reasons therefor and what will be the loss of excise to exchequer; and